BELLSOUTH

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Suite 2104 333 Commerce Street Nashville, TN 37201-3300 Charles L. Howorth, Jr. Regulatory Vice President

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July 3, 2003

Hon. Ron Jones, Hearing Officer **Tennessee Regulatory Authority** 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37238

Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service

Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Director Jones:

behalf of BellSouth The purpose of this letter is to request, on Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Rural Coalition consisting of the Independent Telephone Companies and Cooperatives, that the Hearing Officer enter an order continuing to hold BellSouth's Petition for Reconsideration in abeyance for an additional 60 days in order to allow the parties additional time to continue renegotiating the toll settlement agreement (Primary Carrier Plan). We anticipate that further negotiations will be beneficial to all parties with the continued analysis of the existing proposal. Both BellSouth and the Rural Coalition believe that these negotiations can continue to be productive. Discussions are ongoing. In the event that either BellSouth or the Rural Coalition believes that an impasse has been reached, we will notify you.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Rural Coalition

Vice President - Regulatory

TDS Telecom on behalf of the

Rural Coalition

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 3, 2003, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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[] Facsimile	618 Church St., #300
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